Practitioner's Docket No. MPI1995-001CP1CP1CN1M USSN: 10/067,741

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5, 10-25 and 29-33, and amend claims 1 and 26. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A non-human homozygous transgenic animal having a mutated rchd534 gene, wherein the mutated rchd534 gene is a rchd534-LacZ gene which lacks the MH2 domain encoding region, wherein the wild-type rchd534 gene has been replaced with the mutated rchd534 gene ~~a rchd534-LacZ gene which lacks the MH2 domain encoding region~~, and wherein said animal displays a cardiovascular disease symptom.

2. (Previously Presented): The transgenic animal of claim 1, wherein said cardiovascular disease symptom is hyperplasia, thickening of at least one cardiac valve, cardiac outflow tract development defects, cardiovascular calcification, epicardial vascular malformations, endocardial vascular malformation, or defects in the regulation of vascular tone.

3. (Previously Presented): The transgenic animal of claim 1, wherein said cardiovascular disease symptom is cardiovascular calcification.

4. (Previously Presented): The transgenic animal of claim 1, wherein said cardiovascular disease symptom is aortic or valvular calcification.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented): A cell having a mutated rchd534 gene isolated from the transgenic animal of claim 1, wherein said cell is isolated from tissue displaying a cardiovascular disease symptom.

7. (Original): The cell of claim 6, wherein said symptom is hyperplasia, thickening of at least one cardiac valve, cardiac outflow tract development defects, cardiovascular calcification, epicardial vascular malformation, endocardial vascular malformation, or defects in the regulation of vascular tone.

8. (Original): The cell of claim 6, wherein said symptom is cardiovascular calcification.

9. (Original): A cell line established from the cell of claim 6, wherein said cell is isolated from a tissue which exhibits at least one of the following cardiovascular developmental phenotypes: hyperplasia,

PAGE 7/10 * RCVD AT 2/4/2005 10:54:41 AM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/2 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:617 551 8820 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-58

thickening of at least one cardiac valve, cardiac outflow tract development defects, aortic ossification, epicardial vascular malformation, endocardial vascular malformation, or defects in the regulation of vascular tone.

10-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended): A method for identifying a substance for treating or preventing cardiovascular disease, comprising administering said substance to a non-human homozygous transgenic animal having a mutated rchd534 gene, wherein the mutated rchd534 gene is a rchd534-LacZ gene which lacks the MH2 domain encoding region, wherein the wild-type rchd534 gene has been replaced with the mutated rchd534 gene ~~a rchd534 LacZ gene which lacks the MH2 domain encoding region~~, wherein said ~~transgenic~~ animal displays a cardiovascular disease symptom, and wherein amelioration of said cardiovascular disease symptom indicates a substance effective in the treatment or prevention of cardiovascular disease.

27. (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein said cardiovascular disease symptom is hyperplasia, thickening of at least one cardiac valve, cardiac outflow tract development defects, cardiovascular calcification, epicardial vascular malformation, endocardial vascular malformation, or defects in the regulation of vascular tone.

28. (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein said cardiovascular disease symptom is cardiovascular calcification.

29-33. (Canceled)

PAGE 8/10 * RCVD AT 2/4/2005 10:54:41 AM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/2 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:617 551 8820 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-58